

FUTURE PLANNING EFFORTS

Planning is a continuing process. At the time of this writing, solutions for a number of issues identified in this master plan are unknown. In recognition of this situation, this element makes a number of proposals for future studies and monitoring efforts to address these issues.

Land Use Plan Element

Study the potential for creating an additional professional office district, and if warranted, amend the Master Plan and development regulations accordingly.

Continue efforts to support establishment of the Central Avenue neighborhood preservation program and study the potential for redevelopment and/or rehabilitation in this area.

Determine the advisability of measures to encourage construction and retention of residential front porches.

Review the bulk regulations in the Land Use Ordinance for residential zones to determine if standards relating house scale to lot size would be appropriate.

Study the impacts to residential areas from nonresidential development on North Avenue, particularly in the area of Chestnut Street, and identify solutions to mitigate such impacts.

Housing Plan Element

Determine the need for, and if a need exists, the location for a senior citizen housing facility near the central business district.

Circulation Plan Element

Street Classification

The Circulation Plan also classifies the streets in Town according to function. Generally, these classifications continue to be valid; however, a more detailed classification system that better reflects street conditions, including traffic volume, adjacent land uses, cartway and right-of-way width, roadway alignment, presence of on-street parking, number and spacing of driveway openings, presence of stop/yield signs or traffic signals, number and location of pedestrian crossings, etc.

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should be studied. Based upon the findings of such study, more specific policies should be developed.

The effects of the State highway access management code and classification of all State roadways should be considered in the study of the Town's own street classification, discussed above. Also, the impact of the code upon the Master Plan development policies needs to be examined and, if warranted, revisions made to the Master Plan and/or Land Use Ordinance.

Study modification of the street classification and improvement standards to be consistent, or at least compatible with the New Jersey Residential Site Improvement Standards.

Street Inventory

Update traffic counts should be incorporated into the Master Plan as they become available and analysis performed of the trends, if any, that are indicated by the counts.

Intersection Improvements

Monitor the design and improvement of the Plaza Circle (North Avenue/South Avenue/Broad Street intersection) improvement currently being prepared by the New Jersey Department of Transportation and provide input concerning the coordination of the design and improvements with the beautification of Plaza Park.

A traffic signal is currently being designed for the intersection of Mountain Avenue, East Broad Street and Elmer Street by Union County. This improvement should be incorporated into the circulation plan.

The intersection of North Avenue and Central Avenue should continue to be studied in order to improve all turning movements at North Avenue and Central Avenue. A limited study was performed as part of the Village Supermarkets site plan application. No improvements have been constructed, however.

Determine the best course of action concerning on-street parking on North Avenue between Elm Street and Central Avenue. Any such study should balance the need for parking by area employees and patrons with the need for improved traffic flow and safety in this area.

The intersection of Dudley Avenue and Lawrence Avenue should continue to be studied to determine possible additional measures to improve traffic safety and circulation at the intersection.

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Review County roads in the Town to determine the need for additional signalized intersections.

Traffic and Pedestrian Safety

Investigate opportunities for enhanced lighting for pedestrian safety.

A pilot study should be conducted of certain intersections to demonstrate the need for and benefits resulting from balancing vehicular and pedestrian movements at intersections, with an emphasis on "traffic calming" measures.

Identify other areas where traffic calming is appropriate and incorporate traffic calming measures in all major roadway improvements

The availability of outside grants for traffic calming measures should continue to be explored.

Central Business District Proposals

Continue development of a management plan to address parking deficiencies, including consideration of tiered parking structures.

Other Circulation Proposals

Continue to evaluate traffic impacts due to the recently opened ShopRite on North Avenue in Garwood and investigate measures to mitigate such impact.

Support measures to provide "Midtown Direct" service for the railroad station and pursue implementation of the same.

Investigate the feasibility of establishing bicycle routes within Westfield.

Community Facilities Plan Element

Public Schools

Study on-street parking and traffic conditions in the vicinity of Westfield's public schools. If problems are determined to exist, identify actions and opportunities to reduce or eliminate such problems.

Cultural Arts Center

Study the concept of establishing a Cultural Arts Center in or near the central business district.

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Parks and Recreation

Coordinate beautification of the four open space areas, known as Plaza Park, between North and South Avenues at Broad Street with the NJDOT improvements currently being designed for the Plaza traffic circle.

Continue improvements to preserve and enhance the passive use of Brightwood Park.

Public Historic Sites

Study the potential enhanced use of both the north-side and south-side railroad stations, consistent with their transit function and historic character.

Downtown Economic Development

Support the implementation of the Downtown Westfield Corporation Streetscape Improvement Project for the central business district and the Central Avenue corridor, which incorporates shade tree plantings, ornamental street lighting, new sidewalks, ornamental tree wells and brick/concrete block paver crosswalks. Explore the feasibility of underground utilities in connection with this project.

Continue to and encourage acquisition of property or rights for pedestrian access routes between the public parking areas and stores in the central business district.

Historic Preservation Plan Element

Monitor preservation, removal and replacement of bluestone sidewalks in the historic districts and adjacent to historic sites, in order to preserve the historic streetscape. If necessary, exemption from the Residential Site Improvement Standards should be sought for this policy.

Continue the ongoing program of renaming existing streets to commemorate deceased Westfield veterans and to designate the same with gold stars.

Monitor the retention and retrofitting of the existing radial-wave street lights in Westfield.

Evaluate appropriate regulations to promote compatible architectural design in development.

Apply to the Office of New Jersey Heritage for Certified Local Government Status.

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Coordination With Other Planning Programs

Contiguous Municipalities

Scotch Plains

Monitor the progress of redevelopment plans for the Plainfield Avenue/Jerusalem Road area and provide input during the formulation of any such plans, including the recent proposal for a townhouse project.

General

Continue to study opportunities for regional planning efforts with area municipalities, including but not limited to shared services and facilities, improved planning coordination, etc.

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